

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating claims 42-43 are allowable.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 42-43 and 48-68 are pending in the application, with 42, 48, and 54 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants note that references 45, 46, and 59 (JP Nos.: 421650 published 12/12/90, 470746 published 6/23/96, and 6-273,445 published 9/30/94) were not initialed by the Examiner on the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed June 8, 2001, and considered August 5, 2002. A copy of the IDS is being re-submitted for consideration by the Examiner. If the Examiner again refuses to consider the references, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner provide an explanation for not considering the references.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has rejected claim 48 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being vague and indefinite in regards to "microelectronic" in the preamble and "electronic" in the body of the claim. Based on the above amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 48-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,965,865 to Trenary.

Claim 48 recites at least a method in which the central body portion of the spring contact element being spaced from the electronic component after mounting the base ends of the spring contact elements to corresponding terminals on the electronic component.

Trenary in all the figures (*e.g.*, in FIGS. 2, 3, 8, and 11) teaches a central body portion of a spring contact member being attached to a dielectric layer(s) of the electronic component.

Therefore, Trenary neither anticipates nor renders obvious claim 48. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection. Also, all claims that depend from claim 48 should be found allowable for at least this reason.

New claims 54-68

New claims 54-68 have been added, and Applicants assert they are allowable over the cited references.

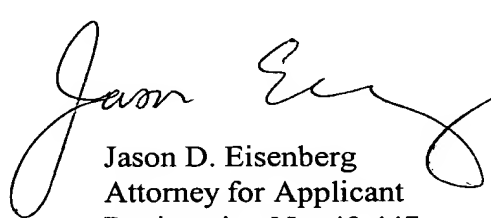
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Eisenberg", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the claims

Pending claim 48 has been replaced with the following new claim 48.

48. (Once Amended) A method of mounting a plurality of spring contact elements to an [micro]electronic component, comprising:
providing a plurality of elongate spring contact elements, each having a base end, a contact end, and a central body portion therebetween; and
mounting the base ends of the spring contact elements to corresponding terminals on the electronic component, the contact ends of the spring contact elements extending about the surface of the electronic component and the body portion being spaced from the electronic component.

New claims 54-68 have been added.